

## **BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Suspension     )  
   )  
or Revocation of the Educator        )  
   )  
Certificate of Gary L. Phillips        )  
   )  
Certificate 219772                        )

### **ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION**

### **SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 13, 2006. By letter of July 26, 2006, the Office of Educator Certification sent Gary L. Phillips notice of his right to a hearing regarding the possible revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Mr. Phillips received the notice on July 31, 2006, as evidenced by a U.S. Postal receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Phillips did not request a hearing within the time frame specified in the notice letter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. Phillips' certificate.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

Mr. Phillips was issued a temporary South Carolina certificate in August 2004, which expired on June 30, 2005. On April 11, 2006, the Ohio State Board of Education permanently revoked Mr. Phillip's Ohio educator certificate on the grounds of criminal misconduct and inappropriate conduct with students, to include convictions for misdemeanor theft and passing bad checks, as well as spending excessive amounts of money on two students, transporting a student in violation of local board policy, and making inappropriate contact with a student.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The State Board may revoke the certificate of any person for just cause; just cause includes unprofessional conduct, immorality, and evident unfitness for position. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). The State Board finds that there is sufficient information to support a conclusion that just cause exists to permanently revoke Mr. Phillips' South Carolina certificate. Mr. Phillips is prohibited from applying for issuance of a South Carolina educator certificate at any time in the future.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Joe Isaac

Joe Isaac, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
September 13, 2006